# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1479
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
EYE DONATION
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Eye Banks in the country are approaching mortuaries as well as intensive care units in hospitals to motivate relatives of the dead or `likely to die` `donate` Cornea for the blind;

(b) whether eye donation is yet to become popular because of lack of awareness;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the names of the Eye Banks which are fully equipped to store and transplant eye, in the country, State-wise/UT-wise;

(e) whether efforts are being made to frame a law to `harvest` eye donations from the mortuaries than waiting for voluntary donors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Eye Banks are approaching hospitals for eye donation under the Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme.The Eye Bank staff called as grief counselor approaches the family member of patients with critical condition and motivates them to donate the eyes in case the patient expires. It is however a very sensitive request to the relatives and it is up to them to donate the eyes or deny the request.

(b) & (c) The following steps are being taken by the Government to promote eye donation:

i) Organising National Fortnight on eye donation from 25th August to 8th September every year.

ii) Enhance mass awareness through messages on television, radio, press, printed materials, poster painting, slogan writing competition etc.

iii) Training hospital staff on grief counseling for motivating relatives of terminally ill patients for eye donation.

iv) Provide financial assistance to eye banks in Government and Voluntary sector.

v) Launching Hospital Cornea Retrieval Programme by shifting focus from `Pledging of Eyes` to `Actual collection of Eyes`.

(d) In the country there are very few eye banks which are fully equipped to store and transplant the Corneas. The list of such leading eye banks enclosed as annexure.

(e) & (f) This is under active consideration & draft of a bill has been circulated to elicit views of some State Governments.

The list of the leading eye banks, which are equipped:

1. National Eye Bank, Dr. R.P. Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, New Delhi

2. Guru Nanak Eye Centre, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Marg, New Delhi.

3. Rotary Central Eye Bank Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi

4. Ed. Maumenee Eye Bank, Venu Eye Institute, New Delhi

5. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh
6. Samaria International Red Cross Eye Bank, Ahmedabad

7 Ramayamma International Eye Bank, Hyderabad

8. Eye Bank Association, Little Flower Hospital, Angamally

9. Ozanam Eye Centre, Qulam, Kerala
10. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Trivandaraum
11. Arpan Eye Bank, Ghatkopar, Mumbai
12. Sri Ganpati Netralaya, Jalana
13. Sri Vivekanand Eye Banks, Latur
14. Armed Force Medical College, Pune
15. Eye Bank Coordination and Research Centre, Mumbai
16. Lions Eye Bank Trust & Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Egmore, Chennai
17. Aravind Eye Hospital Madurai
18. Sri Kanchi Kamakotti Medical Trust, Coimbatore
19. C.U. Shah Eye Bank, Chennai
20. Neemuch Eye Bank, Madhya Pradesh
21. Seva Sadan Eye Hospital, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
22. Choitram Hospital & Research Centre, Indore
23. JIPMER, Pondicherry
24. Joseph Eye Hospital, Trichy
25. Shell Eye Hospital, Vellore
26. OEU Institute of Ophthalmology, Manipal Karnataka
27. Minto Eye Hospital, Bangalore
28. Bangalore West Lions Eye Hospital & Research Centre, Bangalore
29. Regional Institute of Ophthalmology & Medical College, Kolkata